

Frequently Asked Questions Technology Demand Aggregation Project

The IN Department of Administration (IDOA) in partnership with the IN Department of Education (DOE) will be coordinating a bulk purchase for IT hardware for schools and local units of government. Below are some **FAQs** on the project.

Q: *Can accredited, non-public schools qualify for stimulus funds to use for this bulk purchase?*

A: Accredited non-public schools can be part of the bulk purchase through an eligible district. What this means is that eligible districts (see list [here](#)) have the responsibility of contacting the private-non-public schools as part of their grant preparation. If the private schools consent to be part of the project being proposed by the eligible district, then the question of hardware for the private school becomes relevant. However, even if the private non-public school benefits from the hardware purchased with stimulus funds, the ownership of that hardware would remain with the eligible public school. Ultimately, it makes the most sense for the public eligible schools to deal directly with the demand aggregation tool since they will be the fiscal agents for the stimulus \$\$ and will be in charge of all purchasing. If more information is needed regarding this question, please contact Mark Broderick at the Indiana Department of Education (broderic@doe.in.gov).

Q: *Can schools use netbooks to collect the Dibbles testing data, instead of PDAs?*

A: The DOE Assessment Office has been working hard to make sure that we have a source of “Palms” for the next school year. We really want to have all of the year 1 and year 2 schools on a common technology platform. We have worked with Wireless Generation to stockpile Palms and sell them to Indiana schools. However, you will not be required to buy from Wireless if you can find an alternate source. We hope to have the Palm pricing structure available very soon. We have worked with Wireless Generation to obtain Palms for this next year (09-10).

Q: *Can this be used for SPED and Title I stimulus purchases?*

A: To the extent that special education and Title I stimulus funds can be used to purchase technology (given any federal regulations that pertain to the use of those funds), schools could use this demand aggregation service to procure hardware with those funds.

Q: *Are schools required to participate if they want to buy items with their EETT ARRA funds?*

A: No. We hope that these prices are either attractive enough to encourage the actual purchase through this process. Short of this, if these prices can be used to negotiate more favorable terms through local vendors, the ultimate purpose of stretching tax dollars as far as possible would be achieved.

Q: *Who is available to participate in this purchase?*

A: Any Indiana local unit of government – which are defined as K-12 school corporations, higher education institutions, cities, towns, municipalities, counties, and public libraries.

Q: *Is this purchase for IT hardware only?*

A: Yes, this bid is specific to IT hardware.

Q: *Can we purchase items other than Dell – i.e., HP?*

A: No. This purchase is leveraging the state’s already established quantity purchasing agreement (QPA) with Dell and their partners.

Q: *Do we have to purchase the computers standard as we see them or can we build a computer according to our own specifications?*

A: No, however, we achieve a better price point by using the configurations proposed, with upgrade/downgrade options within that model specification. We will entertain use of other model configurations, but cannot guarantee that they will be included in the commitment phase of the bulk buy opportunity as we want to leverage volume to achieve best price.

Q: *Are items available to purchase that are not included in the bulk purchase?*

A: If there is an item you would like to see added to the bulk purchase, please let us know in the comments section of the information gathering release. If there is enough interest in a particular item we may add it to the bid. Even if an item is not added to the bid, you can still purchase it at the state contract’s price by going through the Dell catalog [here](#).

Q: *Can teachers/staff purchase items for their personal use?*

A: We have extended the Dell employee purchasing program prices to everyone, which can be found [here](#).

Q: *If we participate in the information gathering phase of the bid, are we obligated to complete the purchase?*

A: No. Participating in the information gathering phase does not obligate you to purchase anything. The more people that participate will help drive prices even lower before the commitment phase. Once you receive the commitment release it will be very clear that by submitting that you will be committing to purchasing.

Q: *Will the hardware include training materials, and can we have it installed?*

A: Standard orientation materials (connection to network, screen resolution adjustment, FAQs, visual aids as examples) are installed on the hardware. Other information is provided through links to Dell's Web site supplied with the machine image.

Q: *If final pricing is lower, can we add more quantity to our order?*

A: More than likely you will be able to, but that is still being determined. We will be very clear on that in the commitment request release.

Q: *We already have a contract with another supplier, why should we participate in this?*

A: You do not have to participate if you do not wish to. We would encourage you to at least see what kind of prices you can get through the state's contract.

Q: *Is this a one-time purchase or will these prices be available after the bulk purchase?*

A: Possibly, but that is not guaranteed. You would need to negotiate with Dell directly.

Q: *We have our computers imaged before they come to us, will that option still exist?*

A: Yes.

Q: *How long will the warranty length be on these items?*

A: That is being discussed but will most likely be 4 years, which is the current length the state uses.

Q: *Would delivery be immediate, or would we have to wait?*

A: Dell will deliver to your specifications, and items should be ready for delivery shortly after the orders are placed. Generally, Dell requires 5 days to build and 5 days to ship.

Q: *How was Dell selected as the state's vendor?*

A: The contract was competitively bid through the public request for proposal (RFP) process and won by Dell. This contract meets all state public procurement laws.

Q: *What level of technical and customer support can we expect from Dell?*

A: The state has experienced terrific customer support from Dell in the past and we expect nothing less here. If any locality experiences anything short of that they can let us know and we will do our best to rectify the situation.

Q: *Will the state be coordinating more bulk purchases for other products in the future?*

A: Quite possibly. We recently did one for road salt which was a success, and depending on the success of this one, we would seriously consider doing others.

If you have other questions regarding the IT hardware bulk purchase you may contact Kurt Novotny at knovotny@idoa.in.gov.

If you have other questions regarding stimulus grants or other education-specific questions refer to: <http://www.doe.in.gov/stimulus/>